

CLAIMS

1. Cuticle cutter having the general configuration of scissors comprising a first cutter blade and handle combination pivoted to a second cutter blade and handle combination by means of a pivot element,
5 **characterised** in that the cutter blade and the handle of each said combination are releasably attached to each other.

2. Cuticle cutter according to claim 1, **characterised** in that each said cutter blade consists of a cutting end, a central pivot portion through which said pivot element passes and a spigot, each said handle being formed
10 with a substantially longitudinal passage into which the spigot of the associated cutter blade is received and resilient releasable attachment means being provided to retain said spigot in said passage.

3. Cuticle cutter according to claim 2, **characterised** in that each said attachment means comprises a spring element formed with a
15 protuberance mounted laterally in said passage and a lateral recess formed in said spigot of the respective cutter, said recess receiving the protuberance to maintain the cuticle cutter in a mounted configuration and said spring element being flexed to permit separation of the cutter blade from the handle on the application of a longitudinal separating force between the handle and the
20 cutter blade.

4. Cuticle cutter according to claim 3, **characterised** in that each said handle has an axially extending outer portion which, in the mounted configuration of the cuticle cutter, extends as far as said central pivot portions of said cutter blades whereby, on opening said cuticle cutter to a maximum
25 extent, a laterally outer surface of each cutter blades engages an inner surface of the said axially extending outer portion of the handle associated with the other of said cutter blades to produce said longitudinal separating force between said cutter blades and their associated handles.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 10th December 2003 (10.12.03);
original claims 1-4 replaced by new claims 1-2]

+ STATEMENT

1. Cuticle cutter having the general configuration of scissors comprising:

a first cutter blade and handle combination;

5 a second cutter blade and handle combination pivoted to said first cutter blade and handle combination by means of a pivot element, each said cutter blade consists of a cutting end, a central pivot portion through which said pivot element passes and a spigot;

10 a substantially longitudinal passage in each said handle, into which the spigot of the respective first or second cutter blade is received; and

resilient releasable attachment means being provided to retain each said spigot in said passage in its respective handle; **characterised** in that:

each said attachment means comprises a spring element (10; 10')
15 formed with a protuberance mounted laterally in said passage and a lateral recess (7; 7') formed in said spigot (5; 5') of the respective cutter blade (1; 1'), said recess (7; 7') receiving the protuberance to maintain the cuticle cutter in a mounted configuration and said spring element (10; 10') being flexed to permit separation of the cutter blade from the handle (2; 2') on the application of a
20 longitudinal separating force between the handle and the cutter blade; and

each said handle (2; 2') has an axially extending outer portion (12; 12') which, in the mounted configuration of the cuticle cutter, extends as far as said central pivot portions of said cutter blades (1; 1') whereby, on opening said cuticle cutter to a maximum extent, a laterally outer surface of each cutter
25 blade engages said axially extending outer portion (12; 12') of the handle associated with the other of said cutter blades to produce said longitudinal separating force between said cutter blades and their associated handles.

2. Cuticle cutter according to claim 1, **characterised** in that each said handle (2; 2') is formed with a lateral opening providing access to its
30 longitudinal passage (8; 8') to permit insertion of said spring element (10; 10'), a snap fitting plug element (9; 9') closing said opening once the spring element is inserted.

STATEMENT UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19(1) – RULE 46.4

All four claims of this application are hereby substituted by the enclosed two claims.

New claim 1 represents a combination of original claims 1 to 4 and has been drafted taking into account the reference U S 5,430,941 A1.

New claim 2 is introduced for the first time and relates to the simplified arrangement whereby the spring elements 10, 10' are inserted into lateral openings in the handles 2, 2', such openings then being closed by snap fitting plugs 9, 9'.